
MercyOne North Iowa Cardiology Fellowship

Curriculum

The Fellowship Program in Cardiovascular Disease is a three-year program designed to train clinical cardiologists. The curriculum is organized to provide increasing level of responsibility for trainees with respect to patient care and procedure performance. Adequate progression through the curriculum is assessed by evaluating each fellow's clinical judgment, clinical skills, medical knowledge, procedural skills, professionalism, communication skills, and leadership ability. At all times during their training, fellows are expected to conduct themselves with the highest ethical standards and are expected to display integrity, honesty, compassion, and respect to all members of the health care team, patients, and patient family members.

Clinical Training and Education

With a foundational three-year training duration, our program offers both a structured training environment and opportunities for individualization of training based on fellows' clinical and research interests.

Each fellow will complete 36 months of intensive clinical rotations designed to exceed ACGME requirements for cardiovascular medicine. Clinical rotations at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center are 4 weeks in duration, 13 blocks in a year.

Typically fellow complete:

- 6 rotations of Cardiac Catheterization
- 6 rotations of Echocardiography
- 1 rotation of Critical Care Cardiology (CICU) (Advanced Heart Failure) University of Minnesota (PGY 5)
- 4 rotations of Nuclear Cardiology
- 3 rotations of Cardiac Electrophysiology
- 2 rotations of Research
- 1 Elective rotation (PGY 5) (PGY 6)
- 4 rotations CICU in house
- 3 rotations Night Float
- 9 rotations of Floor (In-Patient)

Clinical rotations typically occur consecutively, with opportunities for established elective rotations (including, preventive cardiology, interventional cardiology, and electrophysiology). Additionally, we offer trainees the opportunity to choose elective rotations, with the support of a faculty mentor, tailored to their clinical interests. Each fellow gets 21 days of vacation per year. 5 CME days are allotted to each fellow to encourage conference participation and networking.

Core Curriculum General Cardiology

Cardiac Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology

The electrophysiology service provides state-of-the-art care for complex arrhythmia. This service is responsible for an inpatient service that averages 6 to 10 patients, in addition to an active outpatient and consultative program. General cardiology fellows on this rotation lead the EP inpatient consult service, evaluating and treating rhythm disorders, and assist in device interrogations. Advanced skills in device implantation, arrhythmia mapping, and electrosurgery are generally performed by dedicated EP attending, with ample opportunity for general fellow involvement as desired.

Cath Laboratory

Fellows evaluate patients for which cardiac catheterization may be indicated and are the primary operators on a variety of diagnostic procedures including coronary diagnostic and interventional procedures, myocardial biopsies, and a variety of other specialized procedures, including structural interventions (TAVR, mitral valve clip, valvuloplasty), microvascular studies, intracoronary ultrasound recordings, coronary and peripheral stent placements and a variety of investigational protocols. Percutaneous coronary intervention and structural interventions are primarily performed by interventional cardiology fellows.

Echocardiography

Fellows rotating through the echocardiography laboratory receive hands-on training in both the acquisition and interpretation of echo images. Fellows become comfortable with the latest two-dimensional, Doppler, and three-dimensional techniques in both transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography and receive daily one-on-one instruction with faculty.

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

The CICU cares for patients referred from throughout Northern Iowa with complex and critical cardiac conditions, frequently requiring escalation to advanced therapies and mechanical support. The fellow is responsible for overseeing patient care in the unit and rounding with multidisciplinary CICU team on all cardiac patients, as well as working with the Cardiac Attendings who are highly experienced, engaged in patient care.

In-Patient

Inpatient cardiology consults fellow interfaces with non-cardiology services throughout the hospital in caring for patients with a wide variety of cardiovascular disorders. This rotation provides significant exposure to uncommon pathology.

Night Float

The fellow will be on nights from Sunday-Thursday for four weeks. Cardiology consults fellow interfaces with non-cardiology services throughout the hospital in caring for patients with a wide variety of cardiovascular disorders. This rotation provides significant exposure to uncommon pathology.

Nuclear Imaging Rotation

General cardiology fellows on this rotation gain enhanced exposure to the acquisition and interpretation of CMR and echocardiography studies, including structural, SPECT. The fellow on this rotation evaluates all requests for diagnostic imaging from the local hospitals and facilities from the 14 surrounding counties.

Continuity Clinics

Core Curriculum General Cardiology

All fellows are assigned one cardiology clinic per week throughout their 3 years of training. Fellows examine and discuss patients referred to Cardiovascular Medicine. Continuity of care is emphasized. In addition to general cardiology, the MercyOne Heart Center Program offers subspecialty clinic experience in electrophysiology, interventional cardiology, inherited cardiovascular disease, preventive cardiology, advanced heart disease and vascular medicine.

Conference Schedule

Day	Time	Conference	Requirement
Monday	7:00am-8:00am	Electrophysiology Conference	Weekly
Tuesday	7:00am-8:00am	Interventional Conference	Weekly
Wednesday	7:00am-8:00am	Case Review	Bi-Weekly
Wednesday	7:00am-8:00am	General Cardiology Conference	Bi-Weekly
Thursday	7:00am-8:00am	Echocardiography Conference	Bi-Weekly
Thursday	7:00am-8:00am	Nuclear Conference	Bi-Weekly
Friday	7:00am-8:00am	Board Review/ECG Conference	Weekly
Wednesday	Noon-1:00pm	Heart Center Grand Rounds	Quarterly
Wednesday	Noon-1:00pm	Institutional M&M	Every Other Month
Friday	7:00am-8:00am	External Presentations	Monthly
Friday	7:00am-8:00am	Journal Club	Monthly
Friday	7:00am-8:00am	External Presentations	Monthly